

Appl. No. : 10/644,634
Filed : August 19, 2003

REMARKS

Claims 1 - 20 stand rejected over Feinstein (U.S. Patent No. 4,774,958) under 35 USC 102(b). However, the claims as currently amended are clearly allowable over Feinstein. Feinstein discloses the use of albumin coated air bubbles. Nowhere in Feinstein is there a teaching or suggestion of microbubbles containing at least two gases wherein one of the gases is a perfluorocarbon. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

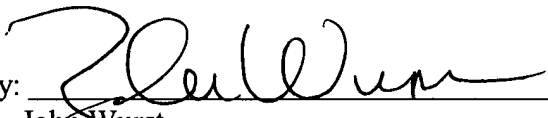
Claims 1 - 20 stand rejected over Widder (U.S. Patent No. 5,315,997) under 35 USC 102(a) and 102(e). However, for the same reasons that the claims as currently amended are allowable over Feinstein, the claims are also allowable over Widder. Widder is directed to methods of MRI using various contrast agents (Albunex, Levovist, Echovist, etc.). Essentially, Widder covers the use of MRI diagnostic imaging using those contrast agents. However, none of the above-stated contrast agents (Albunex, Levovist, Echovist, etc.) comprise a perfluorocarbon and nowhere in Widder is there a teaching or suggestion of the use of microbubbles containing at least two gases wherein one gas is a perfluorocarbon.

Applicants respectfully request to revisit the issue of a double patenting rejection at the time the claims are allowed. Applicant also hereby submits an IDS citing certain references to bring to the attention of the Examiner.

Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections and applicant requests a two-month extension of time. If there are any questions, applicants' attorney can be reached at the telephone number stated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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